

## **Community Outreach Plan**

Avery Landing Site  
Avery, Idaho

*for*

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Behalf  
of Potlatch Land and Lumber**

March 4, 2013



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# Community Outreach Plan

## Avery Landing Site Avery, Idaho

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents the Community Outreach Plan (COP) to facilitate two-way communication between the community surrounding the Avery Landing Site (Site) and Potlatch Land and Lumber (Potlatch) to ensure that residents are informed of the planned removal action that will be completed at the Site and are provided opportunities to ask questions regarding the project.

This Community Outreach Plan addresses Avery Landing's relationship to the community (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents Potlatch's Community Outreach Program (Section 4.0), and provides a listing of resources available (Section 5.0).

## 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 2.1. Site History

The Site was used as a switching and maintenance facility for the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad (CMSPR) from 1907 to 1977. Activities performed by the railroad at the facility included maintenance, refueling, and cleaning. On-site structures included a switchyard with train roundhouse and turntable, engine houses, and railroad maintenance and machine shops. As a refueling station, fuel oil was stored on-site, including the use of a 500,000-gallon above ground fuel oil tank.

Today, there is little remaining at the site to indicate its previous use, except concrete foundation slabs and remnants of rail lines. The eastern portion of the site is owned by Mr. Larry Bencik, and is used on a seasonal basis. The western portion of the site is owned by Potlatch. Potlatch performed leveling and grading of the Site and reportedly used the area for temporary log storage. Potlatch also leased portions of the site to third parties for a variety of uses including log storage, parking, and trailer sites.

### 2.2. Site Description/Location

The Site is located in the St. Joe River valley in the Bitterroot Mountains in northern Idaho, approximately one mile west of the town of Avery, Shoshone County, Idaho (Figure 1). The Site is located directly adjacent to the St. Joe River to the south and Highway 50 to the north, at latitude 47°13'57" North and longitude 115°43'40" West.

The St. Joe River is designated a special resource water that is used for wild life habitat, recreation, and as drinking water for downstream residents. According to the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) 58.01.02.110.11, the segment of the St. Joe River adjacent to the Site that could be impacted by contaminants found at the Site has the following designations: special resource water, domestic water supply, primary contact recreation, cold water communities, and salmonid spawning. The Site is located in a narrow and remote river valley, and the immediate area around the Site is residential, recreational, and commercial.

### 2.3. Previous Cleanup Actions and Investigations

The earliest known release of petroleum product associated with railroad operations into the St. Joe River was reported in the 1940's and observations of free petroleum product entering the river continued through 2012.

Two prior cleanup actions have been conducted at the Site. A free product recovery system was operated by Potlatch from 1994 through 2000, and recovery of 1,290 gallons of petroleum from groundwater was reported for this period. In 2000, Potlatch installed a containment wall and collections wells to prevent free product from flowing into the St. Joe River and a series of product extraction wells were installed at the Site.

The Site has been under investigation since the late 1980s. Most recently, EPA conducted a removal assessment at the Site during April 2007 (E&E, 2007). During this investigation, petroleum product was observed floating on groundwater in monitoring and recovery wells. Sampling completed as part of this investigation confirmed that contamination was also present in subsurface soils and groundwater. Additionally, free product was also observed seeping into the St. Joe River along approximately 200 feet of river bank.

In August 2008, the EPA entered into an agreement with Potlatch to perform an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA), Biological Assessment (BA) and a Cultural Resources Evaluation (CRE) for Site. The EE/CA (E&E, 2010) evaluated environmental data, presented alternatives for cleaning up the contamination, and recommended a preferred cleanup alternative. The BA (E&E, 2011) evaluated how any cleanup action would affect threatened or endangered species, such as bull trout, and critical habitat. The CRE (AAR, 2010 and AAR, 2012) evaluated and documented any railroad remnants of historic importance.

During the summer and fall of 2009, Potlatch conducted an investigation (Golder, 2010) to gather additional soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater data to better understand the nature and extent of contamination and to provide a framework for preparation of the draft EE/CA report.

The various investigations demonstrate that the elevated concentrations of hazardous substances and total petroleum hydrocarbons indicate that air (inhalation), direct contact (dermal), and soil (ingestion) human exposure pathways exist. Nearby residents, recreationists, and/or trespassers could be exposed to the contaminants. The potential for exposure is elevated further because Site access is unrestricted and limited vegetative cover may result in the redistribution of contaminants throughout the surrounding environment. Moreover, there exists Site-related chronic petroleum product releases to the St. Joe River and shoreline. Additionally, ecological receptors, including avian, mammalian, and plant receptors, could become exposed to elevated site contaminants and petroleum product found in soils through direct contact with the contaminated materials and with water and sediments contaminated by the materials; ingestion of soils, water, and sediments contaminated by the materials; and ingestion of contaminated food (e.g., sediment- or soil-dwelling insects, vegetation).



### 3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

#### 3.1. Community Profile

Avery is a small unincorporated town set in the St. Joe River Valley in Shoshone County, Idaho. Avery is located in the middle of the St. Joe District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Avery is a popular tourist attraction in northern Idaho for its beautiful wilderness and outdoor recreation. Common activities include camping, hunting, ATV riding, snowmobiling, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing, and rafting. Avery has a population of about 57 permanent residents. The temporary population is much higher in the summer though due to seasonal workers for the United States Forest Service and the many summer homes in Avery and along the St. Joe River.

#### 3.2. History of Community Outreach

On Monday, April 16, 2007, Judy Smith, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator made a visit to Avery and spoke with twelve people in the following locations:

- Avery Post Office
- Avery Gift Shop - Sheffy's General Store and Motel
- The Avery Trading Post
- Idaho Fly Fishing Company Store
- Avery School District #394 (K-8)
- Swiftwater Motel & RV Park
- US Forest Service, St. Joe Ranger District

On November 18th, Jeff Philip, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator conducted community interviews with six residents in the Avery Trading Post.

Potlatch has conducted no independent interviews.

#### 3.3. Key Community Concerns

The community members EPA spoke with were very concerned about the economy. They wondered what was going on at the site from a curiosity perspective, but did not express concern about it. They were interested in any jobs created by the cleanup.

#### 3.4. Response to Community Concerns

Potlatch will encourage the contractor conducting the cleanup to use local resources as appropriate and to provide open communication with the public on the cleanup project.

#### 3.5. Summary of Communication Needs

The following is a summary of communication needs for the Avery Landing removal action:

- Enter on-going dialogue with adjacent landowner (Larry Bentcik) as project planning and implementation proceed;

- Conduct meetings (and field reviews as appropriate) with Avery and Shoshone County public works personnel to address potential issues on infrastructure and public safety;
- Conduct an open public meeting in Avery to introduce Potlatch personnel, cleanup contractor and explain 2013 summer project; and
- Provide contact information to citizens.

### 3.6. Potlatch's Community Outreach Program

The overall goal of Potlatch's Community Outreach Program is to promote communication between citizens and Potlatch in the cleanup process. Potlatch will implement the community outreach activities described below.

### 3.7. Outreach Plan

Information will be distributed in the following ways:

- Potlatch will conduct meetings with county and city public works personnel, and law enforcement personnel to address infrastructure (road, sewer, water, power, telephone, etc.) and public safety concerns.
- Potlatch will conduct an open public meeting in Avery to introduce Potlatch personnel, the cleanup contractor, and the engineering contractor, and explain the 2013 summer project.
- At the public meeting, written contact information will be provided.
- Conduct on-site meetings as appropriate before mobilization.
- Post contact information on-site in a location readily available to the public. The sign will be posted as mobilization occurs and temporary construction infrastructure is established.

Opportunities for community input:

- The Site will be occupied at all times during the project by at least one of: construction contractor, engineering contractor, or Potlatch personnel.
- The contractors and Potlatch personnel may be contacted directly by phone or email.

### 3.8. Time Frame Summary for Community Outreach Activities

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Discuss progress with Larry Bentcik	Started February 18, 2013 (on-going)
Meet with city of Avery public works.	March 21, 2013
Meet with Shoshone County public works and law enforcement.	March 21, 2013
Conduct public meeting.	March 29, 2013
Conduct on site meetings as needed.	May 31, 2013
Place contact information (below) on a sign readily available to the public.	June 15, 2013

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Revise the Community Outreach Plan	As needed

## 4.0 CONTACT INFORMATION

### 4.1. Removal Action

Name Organization	Project Role	Telephone Email Address
Terry Cundy Potlatch	Potlatch Project Manager	Tel: 208.883.1668 Cell: 208.301.0410 Email: <a href="mailto:Terry.Cundy@potlatchcorp.com">Terry.Cundy@potlatchcorp.com</a> 530 S. Asbury, Suite 4 Moscow, Idaho 83843
Brandon Miller Potlatch	St Joe District Forester	Tel: 208.245.6436 Cell: 208.874.7588 Email: <a href="mailto:Brandon.Miller@potlatchcorp.com">Brandon.Miller@potlatchcorp.com</a> 1100 Railroad Ave Box 386 St. Maries, ID 83861
John Herzog GeoEngineers	Technical Project Manager	Tel: 206.728.2674 Cell: 206.406.6431 Email: <a href="mailto:jherzog@geoengineers.com">jherzog@geoengineers.com</a> 600 Stewart Street, Suite 1700 Seattle, Washington 98101
Will Clark Pacific Pile and Marine	Construction Project Manager	Tel: 206.331.3873 Cell: 206.300.1312 Email: <a href="mailto:wilc@pacificpile.com">wilc@pacificpile.com</a> 582 South Riverside Drive Seattle, WA 98108
Earl Liverman U.S. EPA, Region 10	Federal On-Scene Coordinator	Tel: 208.664.4858 Fax: 208.664.5829 Email: <a href="mailto:Liverman.earl@epamail.epa.gov">Liverman.earl@epamail.epa.gov</a> 1910 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 208 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

### 4.2. Local, State and Federal Officials

- Superintendent's Office Avery School District 394: 370 Old River Rd, Avery - 208.245.2479
- Postmaster General: 10 Depot Road, Avery - 208.245.3557

- Governor: C.L. "Butch" Otter
- Federal Senators: Mike Crapo & James E. Risch
- Representatives: Raul Labrador (ID 1st District)
- Idaho DEQ (Director): Curt Fransen

#### 4.3. Media

- Newspapers:
  - St. Maries Gazette Record
  - Shoshone News Press - Kellogg, ID [www.shoshonenewspress.com](http://www.shoshonenewspress.com)

#### 5.0 REFERENCES

- Applied Archeological Research, Inc. (AAR), "Results of a Cultural Resources Survey of the Avery Landing Rail Yard Project Area, Shoshone County, Idaho," prepared for Ecology and Environment, Inc., dated July 20, 2012.
- Applied Archeological Research, Inc. (AAR), "Results of a Class I Inventory of the Avery Landing Project Area, Shoshone County, Idaho," prepared for Ecology and Environment, Inc., dated December 23, 2010.
- Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E& E), "Biological Assessment, Avery Landing Site Removal Action, Avery, Shoshone County, Idaho," prepared for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, dated June 21, 2011.
- Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E& E), "Draft Final Engineering Evaluation /Cost Analysis, Avery Landing Site, Avery, Idaho," prepared for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, dated December 2010.
- Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E& E), "Removal Assessment Report, Avery Landing Site, Avery, Idaho", prepared for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Seattle, Washington, dated July 31, 2007.
- Golder Associates, Inc. (Golder), "Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, Avery Landing Site, Avery, Idaho", prepared for Potlatch Land and Lumber, LLC, dated January 22, 2010.